

## GOAL 1

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***Protect and enhance Washington State's natural resource systems by utilizing the unique, local conservation program delivery system of the Conservation Commission and 48 Conservation Districts with private land managers.***

### ***Objectives***

- Make available to private land owners/managers the technical, financial and educational resources needed for total resource management conservation plan development and conservation practice implementation in high priority watershed areas of the state.

### ***Strategies***

- All 48 Conservation Districts, with assistance from the Conservation Commission will develop a 5-year plan to address the priority natural resource issues within their district including the technical, financial, and educational resources needed to address these priority natural resource issues.
- The Conservation Commission will work with partner state agencies, federal agencies, and organizations for coordination and use of existing and potential new programs to meet the private land owner/manager's needs for their development and implementation of total resource management plans to protect and enhance the states natural resource systems.

### ***Performance Measures***

- Using the 5-year plans from all Conservation Districts and input from WACD Issue Committees, the Conservation Commission will develop and submit the biennial budget decision packages to the Office of Financial Management that reflect the needed technical, financial and educational resources requested by local citizens through the network of state conservation districts that results in the ability to monitor and report the following:
  - ◆ Numbers and acres of total resource management / conservation plans completed.
  - ◆ Numbers and acres of total resource management / conservation plans implemented.
  - ◆ Increase acreage of enhanced endangered & threatened species habitat.

### ***Two-Year Objective***

- 50% of Conservation Districts have completed and begun implementing a 5-year plan to address the priority natural resource issues within their district.
- All 48 Conservation Districts have conducted stakeholder input activities to involve the public in identifying critical natural resource issues, geographic areas, and recommendations.
- A statewide natural resource systems monitoring program is developed utilizing local conservation district staff and volunteers.

### ***Six-Year Objective***

- All 48 Conservation Districts have completed and are implementing 5-year plans to address the priority natural resource issues within their district.
- All 48 Conservation Districts have a stakeholder input process in place to involve the public in identifying critical natural resource issues, geographic areas, and recommendations.
- A statewide natural resource systems monitoring program utilizing local conservation district staff and volunteers is functioning and providing necessary data to drive better decisions.

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## GOAL 2

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***Increase the match grant funds that can be utilized as seed money to secure additional local, state, and federal funding sources for natural resource improvements. As well as meet the statutory requirements for funding conservation districts in RCW 89.08.410.***

### ***Objective***

- Increase the basic match grants to Conservation Districts so that they can increase the amount of funding available to leverage the additional dollars needed to fund the improvement projects.
- Utilize the 48 Annual Plans required from districts to provide the support for increasing the available funds to meet the statutory requirements in 89.08 RCW to fund the projects described.

### ***Strategies***

- Implement a data system that provides the amount of funding leveraged and from what source.
- The Conservation Commission will provide training to conservation districts on the core natural resources strategies as outlined in Priorities of Government.
- Strengthen awareness of conservation district role through education and promotion of actions to support the funding initiatives.

### ***Performance Measures***

- Receive by September 1st of each year, 48 Annual Plans from Conservation Districts that describe their role in the core natural resources results as defined in Priorities of Government.
- Achieve full basic funding for conservation districts as described in RCW 89.08.410.

### ***Two-Year Objective***

- Acquire full statutory funding for conservation programs that enhance natural resources and improve quality of life.

### ***Six-Year Objective***

- Utilize the Coordinated Resource Management Strategy as the basis to increase core statutory funding.

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### GOAL 3

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***Each of the 48 Conservation Districts will be provided training and assistance from the Conservation Commission to be successful in the local community.***

#### ***Objectives***

- Improve business operation efficiencies.
- Improve local involvement in elections.
- Improve accountability and reporting of implementation and investments.
- Assist in District planning and capacity building to better reflect needs of resources in local level.
- Improve financial management and grants administration utilizing approved and appropriate accounting standards.

#### ***Strategies***

- Provide training and development opportunities for each district supervisor and employee on an annual basis.

#### ***Performance Measure***

- At least 50% attendance each year at the training and development sessions.
- Reduction in the number of rewritten vouchers from districts.

#### ***Two-Year Objective***

- District Audit findings will not exceed 5%.
- All new supervisors will receive orientation and training.
- All District Operation Reviews current.
- All Commission Grant Reviews Completed.
- Provide enough resources that 75% of district employees can attend annual training.

#### ***Six-Year Objective***

- No state or federal audit findings.
- All district supervisors will be trained.
- 100% of district staff attend annual training.
- Online grant reporting by districts.

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## GOAL 4

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***Promote conservation and raise awareness of the role the Conservation Commission and Conservation Districts play in improving natural resources in concert with private landowners in Washington State.***

### ***Objective***

- Create an external communication document that illustrates improvements in land and resource stewardship through implementation.
- Strengthen awareness of voluntary incentive-based conservation through Conservation Districts.

### ***Strategies***

- Collect at least one success story from each district each year.
- Publish an information and education document that illustrates the importance of locally led conservation and the role of the Conservation Districts and Conservation Commission.

### ***Performance Measures***

- Collect 48 success stories.
- Publish and distribute information and education document as required in RCW 89.08.070.
- Compile and publish the successes and specific outcomes for programs illustrating successes.
- Add documents and publications to the Conservation Commission website.

### ***Two-Year Objective***

- Collect 48 success stories each year (96 for the biennium).
- 2,000 hits on Conservation Commission website to view document.
- Distribute information and education document at least once during the biennium to groups identified in RCW 89.08.070(7).
- Distribute Commission and District Annual report each year.

### ***Six-Year Objective***

- Collect 48 success stories each year.
- 10,000 hits on the Conservation Commission website to view story document.
- Distribute information and education document at least three times during the biennium.
- Distribute Annual report to targeted audience annually.

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*The Conservation Commission will have a clear, concise, and timely policy and procedure adoption for all grant programs and legislative action.*

- Ensure that actions of the Conservation Commission are based upon policy that has gone through a client comment and review, these actions will be sound, legal, and defensible.
- All programmatic and legislative actions have client comment and review.

- Review every agency policy at least biennially.
- Submit policy changes to clients for comment prior to Commission action.

- Improved number of responses from clients.
- Reduce by 50% the number of client issues brought before the Commission for action.

### *Six-Year Objective*

- Have at least 50% of conservation districts and client trade associations responding to draft policies during comment period.
- Develop and maintain a current and effective implementation strategy for all actions of the Commission.

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## GOAL 6

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***Build opportunities for district supervisors and employees to participate in advancing conservation as well as raising awareness of the role of the Conservation Commission and Conservation Districts in providing assistance to landowners to improve natural resources.***

### ***Objective***

- Broaden understanding of goals and roles of the Conservation Commission in promoting natural resource conservation and improvement.
- Establish coalitions to assist in addressing economic vitality and natural resource issues.
- Improve educational opportunities for district supervisors and district employees.

### ***Strategies***

- Each Commission member will facilitate a meeting with an interest group to introduce the Commission and Conservation District programs and opportunities.
- Increase and stabilize the funding and opportunities for education to assist supervisors that will ensure compliance with state laws.
- Improve training for district employees on natural resource programs and management.

### ***Performance Measures***

- Conservation Commission will receive client response and involvement in the budget development process.
- At least annually, five meetings with interest groups selected by a Commission member.
- The Commission will meet regularly with Agencies, Cabinet members and other interest groups regarding WSCC priorities.

### ***Two-Year Objective***

- The Commission members will meet with at least 10 interest groups.
- Two projects will be established with partners.

### ***Six-Year Objective***

- Identification of 10 new partner contacts.
- Four partner projects will be established.

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